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**REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

INTERNET ADDRESS:

July 28, 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/058,350; Filed: April 10, 1998
For: **RNA Isolation Reagent and Methods**
Inventor: Domenica A. SIMMS
Our Ref: 0942.3840001/REF/AJK

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GROUP 1800

Sir:

Applicant submits the following documents for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Preliminary Amendment; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
July 28, 1998
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

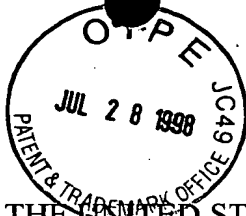
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Attorney for Applicant
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REF/AJK/neh
Enclosure

A



4/4/98
10/15/98

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Simms

Appl. No.: 09/058,350

Filed: April 10, 1998

For: **RNA Isolation Reagent and Methods**

Art Unit: 1649

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty Docket: 0942.3840001

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Page 1, after the title, please insert --This application claims priority benefit to U.S. Appl.

No. 60/041,837, filed April 10, 1997.--

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 3, after "according to claim", please delete "3" and insert therein --2--.